

"Noble deeds are held in honor ;
But the wide world sadly needs
Hearts of patience to unravel
The words of common deeds."

—J. R. Miller, D. D.

Proved a Fool

C. W. Freeman, in Christian Leader.

A converted infidel once told me this story: "A preacher once said: 'I can prove to an infidel in five minutes that he is a fool.' An infidel heard him, and said to the preacher: 'I am an infidel and I am no fool. I have lectured against Christianity for ten years, and I tell you that there is nothing in it!' 'Well,' said the preacher, 'you are an infidel, are you?' 'Yes, sir,' replied the infidel. 'And you have been talking and lecturing against Christianity for ten years?' said the preacher. 'Yes,' replied the infidel. 'And you say that there is nothing in Christianity?' said the preacher. 'Yes, sir, I am sure there is nothing in Christianity,' said the infidel. 'Well,' replied the preacher, 'don't you think a man is a fool who will spend ten years of his life talking and lecturing against something which has nothing in it?' After some hesitation the infidel said: 'Ye-e-e s.' 'Well,' said the preacher, 'I have proved my proposition to be true by you, and have two minutes left!'"

"Beside the Still Waters"

Mrs. M. A. Holt.

What a blessed privilege it is to linger "beside the still waters" in the rough, wild journey of life. It is the sweet resting place where we sit at the Master's feet and look into his holy face. It is then that we forget the long journey over the lonely mountain and thru the dim valley. What do we care about the shadows thru which we have passed, or the dangers that met us on our way? We are safe here. The din of the great world around us comes so faintly to our ears that we do not mind it. It almost seems like far away music while we linger in the valley of blessing. Here the wild tempest cannot come. Here is the peace that is as deep as the ocean, as high as the heavens. Here is the rest that makes us strong to go on again when the Master says, "Go in peace."

Beside the still waters. Oh! how still and placid. Not a single rough wave upon them. Not even one white sail was ever wrecked upon their placid depths. Eternal calm silvers them over with its brightness. The white moonlight glorifies them by night, and the sun when the fair day lingers. No storm cloud ever mirrored its dark shadow in their clear depths.

How we love to linger there for just a little time. How brave we are when we start toward the Western hills again. How gladly and willingly we take up the burden once more, and go out into the great weary world.

"Beside the still waters." Just a little touch of heaven, but enough to give us a hint of what awaits us when the journey is ended. We shall gain the greater "still waters" soon. Only a few more mountains to climb, only a few more rock wastes to

pass thru, then we shall rest beside the "still waters" eternally.

GLEANINGS FROM RECENT SERMONS

B. C. MOOMAW

Dr. Talmage said last Sunday: "Heart religion makes a man a fanatic; mind religion an infidel. The two together make a man a Christian."

According to this theory a Christian must be a combination of fanatic and infidel. Sentences like the above are epigrammatic, but they are woefully lacking in precision. As a matter of fact, heart religion, if anything is meant by the term at all, doesn't necessarily make a man a fanatic, neither does mind religion, per force, make a man an infidel. It is a proper question whether there be any such thing as heart religion exclusive of all other kind, or mind religion also flourishing in lofty isolation. There are delusions in plenty which lead men and women into every sort of extravagance, but our idea of religion is, that it contributes to cleanness of heart and soundness of mind, and makes fanaticism and infidelity impossible.

The Rev. Madison C. Peters said in his sermon that "The grandest exhibition of a true soldiery quality is to fight yourself up and out into the world liberty of self mastery."

This is a good sentiment, and we agree heartily that there is no other kind of courage to compare with this moral courage of the unknown, unapplauded hero, who steadily maintains this conflict with the passions which constantly seek to dominate him. Neither is there any other sort of victory to compare with the sublime victory of self mastery. What a magnificent spectacle it is to see a man who is absolutely his own master. Are you? We hope so, but we have our doubts. The man who conquers the evil world in him will have no trouble in getting the victory over the external world.

Dr. Crowe of the Universalist church says that "The world is rushing at a fearful rate toward a rational belief, or none." He hopes that the Universalist church will "halt the flying column before it plunges into the darkness and the no where."

The trouble about the Universalists is, that their doctrine has somehow or other been identified in the popular apprehension with the idea of no punishment for sin at all in the future life. Now nothing could be more irrational than that, for everybody knows that there is many a grand rascal who doesn't get his deserts in this life. Apart from the teaching of the Bible on the subject, sound reason, and that innate sense of justice ingrained in the constitution of the mind, convinces every reasonable person that *wrong must be righted*, either in this world or in the next.

Bring on your rational creed by all means, but the greased toboggan of no responsibility is not going to stop the world from sliding "down and out into the darkness and the no where."

Rev. Mr. Ramsey, pastor of a Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church says that "Everything that makes for holiness must be holy."

Trite enough. It's like saying that clean

water is essential to a good bath. It ought not to take a scientific lecture to demonstrate that a white garment should not be washed in a mud puddle. Here is a lesson for us preachers. If we have any distinctive calling, it is for the propagation of holiness. What we say, what we preach, what we teach, what we do, is supposed to make for holiness, and consequently the beginning of the business is holiness in ourselves. Whatever may be said about the theories or the methods of the "holiness" brethren, their object, Bible holiness, is above criticism, and we ought all of us to earnestly consider whether we may not attain unto it. He will not climb very high who starts with the proposition that it is impossible.

Dr. Hillis of Plymouth church, Beecher's old pulpit, says that "There are some people who would make us believe that war is a great civilizer, that it develops courage, and prevents a nation from becoming effeminate. When we have read all the decorated statements about war, we still come back to the conclusion that it is sin that leads to all the pain and death."

Good for Dr. Hillis. The same apology for war applies with equal propriety and force to prize fighting. It requires courage to stand up before a famous bruiser, and take the punishment he is able to give. Then also a moral can be drawn from the previous training, demonstrating the advantages of temperance, etc. There is nothing effeminate in the prize fighting business, but some good people have serious doubts of its civilizing tendency. If war isn't "of the devil," somebody has stolen the old fellow's job. Christian prophecy foretells the day when the sword shall be beaten into a plowshare. When that day comes the "Christian warrior" and Lucifer will both go out of business together.

The Mission Field

GENERAL

Washington City Echoes

Brother and Sister Kolb, of Philadelphia, Pa., attended our services on last Sunday morning. Their presence did us good; always glad to have any of our members call on us when coming this way.

On Monday, brother H. R. Dooly, of Hagerstown, Md., gave us a short call which was highly appreciated. But the best part of it is that he will in all probability become a resident of this city in the near future, and will remove his family here a little later.

This is quite encouraging to the mission, for we feel sure that Bro. Dooly and family are of that class which we can "count on" in the work.

We always have lots of room for all we can gather in of that kind. "She is a good worker just as long as she can run things her own way". Not long since I heard this remark made concerning a certain sister. Unfortunately we find members now and then that seem to fill that description. The mission does not need the services of any of that